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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ZAGREB 000523

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [HR](#) [AL](#) [MK](#) [HR](#) [AL](#) [MK](#) [IZ](#) [IZPREL](#) [NATO](#) [NATO](#)

SUBJECT: "ADRIATIC 3" FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, DUBROVNIK,
MARCH 7: SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT ON IRAQ

REF: A. NARDI/ROSSIN EMAIL 3/5

[1](#)B. ROSSIN/NARDI TELCON 3/7

CLASSIFIED BY: (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMB. LAWRENCE ROSSIN,
REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

[1](#)1. (C) SUMMARY: THE ALBANIAN, CROATIAN AND MACEDONIAN FOREIGN
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MINISTERS MET BRIEFLY IN DUBROVNIK MARCH 7 TO CONFIRM THE
"ADRIATIC CHARTER" DRAFT TEXT (ALREADY WITH DEPARTMENT),
ISSUE A DECLARATION AND GIVE THE INITIATIVE HIGHER PUBLIC
PROFILE. AMBASSADOR ROSSIN ATTENDED FOR THE USG AT FM
PICULA'S INVITATION AND PARTICIPATED IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE
AFTERWARD. TEXT OF MINISTERS' DECLARATION, WITH REASONABLY
FIRM IRAQ LANGUAGE, AT PARA 9 (FAXED TO EUR/SCE). WE CREDIT
ALBANIAN FM META FOR ENSURING THE IRAQ LANGUAGE WAS INCLUDED
IN THE FINAL TEXT. ALTHOUGH THE CROATIANS POSE LESS
RESISTANCE THAN AT PREVIOUS A3 MEETINGS, AMBASSADOR OVERHEARD
THE CROATIAN LEAD OFFICIALS TRYING TO MINIMIZE IT.

[1](#)2. (C) IN THE CONFERENCE AND AT THE PRESS EVENT, ALL THREE
MINISTERS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF, AND THEIR GRATITUDE
FOR, USG "PARTNERSHIP" IN ADVANCING THEIR NATO ASPIRATIONS,
AND UNDERScoreD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ADRIATIC CHARTER AS
PROOF POSITIVE OF OUR COMMITMENT. ALL LOOKED FORWARD TO
SIGNING WITH SECRETARY POWELL IN WASHINGTON. PER REF A,
AMBASSADOR TOLD THE MINISTERS THAT A SIGNING CEREMONY IN
MARCH WAS UNLIKELY AND NOTED THAT THE CHARTER TEXT WAS UNDER
REVIEW IN WASHINGTON, WITH SOME WORDING CHANGES POSSIBLE
SOON. THE MINISTERS UNDERSTOOD THAT MARCH WAS HARD TO
PROGRAM BUT URGED THAT SIGNING NOT BE ALLOWED TO SLIP TOO
LONG. PER REF B, DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED CHANGES IN CHARTER
WORDING SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE THREE WASHINGTON
AMBASSADORS FOR A3 CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)3. (C) THE FOREIGN MINISTERS A3 MEETING MARCH 7 IN DUBROVNIK
LASTED 45 MINUTES, WITH AMBASSADOR ROSSIN INVITED TO JOIN IN
ALL BUT THE FIRST TEN MINUTES. DISCUSSION DURING THE
AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE WAS RATHER PERFUNCTORY (THE DECLARATION
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AND DRAFT CHARTER HAVING BEEN COMPLETED BEFOREHAND) WITH THE
EXCEPTION OF MINOR TENSION WHEN ALBANIAN FM META COMPLAINED
TO CROATIAN FM PICULA ABOUT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON ALBANIANS
COMING TO CROATIA. PICULA DWELT ON CROATIA'S NATO AND EU
ASPIRATIONS AND PROGRESS AND STRESSED ITS INTEREST IN
REGIONAL COOPERATION. MACEDONIAN FM MITREVA EMPHASIZED
PRACTICAL COOPERATION, MENTIONED IN THE ADRIATIC CHARTER, ON
ISSUES SUCH AS BORDER SECURITY, TRAFFICKING AND ECONOMIC
COOPERATION. SHE TOUTED THE MAY BORDER CONFERENCE IN OHRID
(SKOPJE 313).

[1](#)4. (C) META SIMILARLY STRESSED ALBANIA'S INTEREST IN REGIONAL
COOPERATION BUT ALSO NOTED THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE SO THESE COUNTRIES COULD ATTAIN NATO AND EU
STANDARDS IN A REASONABLE TIME. META EMPHASIZED AT LENGTH
ALBANIAN SOLIDARITY WITH THE U.S. ON IRAQ, COMPARING SADDAM'S
REGIME WITH THE SOCIALIST ISOLATION HIS COUNTRY SUFFERED FOR
50 YEARS. ALL THREE MINISTERS WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO
UNDERScoreD THEIR APPRECIATION FOR USG SUPPORT, NOT ONLY ON
THE ADRIATIC CHARTER, THE OPEN DOOR AND THEIR NATO
CANDIDACIES, BUT ALSO ON THE FULL RANGE OF THEIR ASPIRATIONS
AND CHALLENGES.

[1](#)5. (C) AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED IN HIS TURN U.S. COMMITMENT TO
THE OPEN DOOR AND TO ASSIST THE THREE COUNTRIES IN MAKING
THEIR NATO ASPIRATIONS REAL THROUGH THEIR MAP PROGRAMS.
WHILE EACH COUNTRY FACED DIFFERENT DEFENSE REFORMS,
INTEROPERABILITY AND CIVIL SOCIETY CHALLENGES TO QUALIFY FOR
INVITATIONS, NATO WAS ALL ABOUT COLLABORATION, AND THEREFORE
WE APPLAUDED THEIR INITIATIVE IN TEAMING TOGETHER THROUGH
THIS ADRIATIC PROCESS, NOT JUST WITH HORTATORY LANGUAGE BUT
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WITH CONCRETE PLANS. AMBASSADOR TOLD THE MINISTERS THAT THE
DRAFT CHARTER TEXT WAS BEING REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON AND WE
APPLAUDED ITS OVERALL TONE AND PROVISIONS; WE EXPECTED TO
PROPOSE SOME MINOR WORDING CHANGES IN DUE COURSE. ALTHOUGH
WE WERE NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM A WASHINGTON SIGNING DATE YET AND
MARCH LOOKED UNLIKELY, WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH SOON AND REMAINED
COMMITTED TO AN EARLY SIGNING CEREMONY.

WE DECLARE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF MAP
AND OUR RESPECTIVE ANP,S IN ORDER TO BETTER PREPARE
OURSELVES FOR FULL NATO MEMBERSHIP. FURTHERMORE, WE SHALL
INTENSIFY OUR ACTIVITIES FOR INCREASING OUR CAPABILITIES TO
MEET NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES AND FOR MODERNIZING OUR ARMED
FORCES.

WE RECONFIRM OUR COUNTRIES, COMMITMENT TO TAKE ACTIVE PART
IN THE INTERNATIONAL COALITION AGAINST TERRORISM AND OUR
SUPPORT OF ALL SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS AND OTHER
RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTS REFERRING TO THE
DESTRUCTION, CONTROL AND NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS
DESTRUCTION. WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CALL UPON IRAQ TO
COMPLY FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF UN
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1441, OR FACE THE CONSEQUENCES.

FOLLOWING THE COMMITMENTS EXPRESSED BY OUR PRESIDENTS AT THE
TIRANA SUMMIT ON FEBRUARY 12, WE AGREE TO INTENSIFY OUR
REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IN ORDER TO ENHANCE PEACE AND STABILITY
IN EUROPE AND WILL USE ALREADY EXISTING BILATERAL AND
MULTILATERAL MECHANISMS. WE REAFFIRM OUR DETERMINATION TO
FURTHER ENHANCE BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL
RELATIONS BETWEEN OURSELVES AND BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, SERBIA
AND MONTENEGRO AND WITH OTHER NEIGHBORS.

END TEXT.

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